

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

UK vote reflects crisis
facing capitalist rulers

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Nickel strikers in Canada say, 'Enough is enough!'



Gerry Kingsley

Strikers and supporters block entrance to Vale Inco's Clarabelle nickel mill near Sudbury, Ontario, May 11. Workers have been on strike for 10 months.

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—As the strike by 3,000 nickel miners, refinery, and smelter workers against Vale Inco near Sudbury, Ontario, enters its 11th month, strikers have ended five days of protests blocking two roads leading to a mine and mill that have been operating using scabs.

"Enough is enough. Something has got to be done," underground miner Shawn Leduc told the *Militant* referring to the length of the strike, the refusal of the company to negotiate a new contract, and its use of scabs.

The actions began May 7 following the announcement that for the second time government-mediated talks had broken down. The main issues in the strike, which began last July 13, are concessions demanded by the bosses on pensions, bonuses, seniority transfer rights, and contracting out. The union is demanding the company rescind the firing of at least nine union activists framed up on charges of threatening scabs and company security guards.

In phone interviews, strikers told

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U.S. gov't uses Times Square bomb attempt to target rights

BY DOUG NELSON

The attempted terrorist bombing in New York City May 1 has provided the U.S. government with another pretext for further probes against workers' rights in this country and deepening military involvement in Pakistan.

Faisal Shahzad, a U.S. citizen of Pakistani descent, was pulled off a plane May 3 as it was preparing to depart New York for Dubai. He is the main suspect in the failed car bombing in Times Square in Manhattan.

Shahzad reportedly confessed to the crime, waived his right to be promptly arraigned in court, and has been taken to an undisclosed location for interrogation.

Attorney General Eric Holder told NBC's "Meet the Press" May 9 that the government has evidence that Shahzad was operating under the direction of the Taliban Movement Pakistan (TTP), a banned Taliban federation at war with the Pakistani government.

The TTP appeared to claim responsibility following the attack. But sev-

eral days later TTP spokesman Azam Tariq denied the claim, saying the group had no ties to Shahzad. At the same time Tariq praised Shahzad for his attempt and reiterated the group's intention to carry out terrorist attacks in the United States.

Details of Shahzad's capture are be-

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Over the top on sales drive: 2,149 readers

BY PAUL MAILHOT

The *Militant* subscription campaign is over the top of the 2,000 international goal—2,149 new and returning readers have subscribed to the paper in the last eight weeks!

The subscription drive ran alongside a campaign to get out the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes in re-

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Europe: Workers to bear brunt of crisis

EU, IMF try to avert gov't loan defaults

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) launched a \$1 trillion fund May 10 in an attempt to prevent a loan default by the Greek or other southern Europe governments. Whether or not the new plan temporarily staves off another economic plunge that threatens the euro zone as a whole, further sharp assaults on the standard of living of working people are assured.

In a sign that Washington is concerned the crisis may cross the Atlantic, the U.S. Federal Reserve also reinstated a program that supplies short-term credit to European banks. U.S. capital has the largest financial stake in the IMF.

These moves came just days after the EU and IMF had pledged \$140 billion in loans to the Greek government, which faces a \$10.8 billion loan repayment May 19 that it is unable

to cover. On April 27 Greece's debt rating was downgraded to "junk" status and a few days later the ratings for Spain and Portugal also plummeted. In the midst of the Greek crisis the euro fell to a 14-month low. Fearing a much wider collapse, the German government, which has the EU's strongest economy and which had balked at loaning Greece money, agreed to do so.

On May 5 the Greek government agreed to terms for the loans that offer a preview of what workers in other capitalist countries will face as the world capitalist depression grinds on—big wage cuts, fewer jobs, smaller pensions, higher retirement ages, and higher taxes. The IMF projects that the Greek economy will contract 4 percent this year and another 2.6 percent next year. After three years of the approved austerity plan, "Greeks

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BP oil rig disaster devastates workers' lives, environment



Reuters/Sean Gardner

Angry Louisiana shrimpers of Vietnamese and Cambodian descent listen to a BP "community coordinator" at China Sea Restaurant in Buras, Louisiana, May 6.

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON, May 10—Three weeks after the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig left 11 workers dead and hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico, no measures have succeeded in containing the oil.

An estimated 3.5 million gallons have spilled since the April 20 explosion. At its current pace of 200,000 gallons a day, the disaster will surpass the 11 million gallons released in the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill by next month.

BP, the oil giant that leased the rig,

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Sudanese-born Canadian fights gov’t, UN blacklist

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—Some 70 people attended a “sanctions-busting” telethon here April 28 in support of Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Sudanese-born Canadian citizen who is fighting sanctions imposed on him by the Canadian government after he was placed on the United Nations “1267 terrorist” list in 2006. Under the sanctions he can’t earn a living or receive monetary aid from individuals or organizations.

The UN’s 1267 list was named after a 1999 resolution that set up a “no-fly” blacklist regime under the control of the Security Council in which states can designate individuals and organizations as suspected “terrorists.” For an individual to be removed from the list it takes unanimous consent of all members of the Security Council, including the state that requested the measure. The 1267 resolution imposes a travel ban, an asset freeze, and an arms embargo on listed individuals and organizations.

Speaking to the gathering with translation from Arabic, Abdelrazik called on Ottawa to “please listen to the human aspect of the situation and ask the UN to take me off this inhuman list.”

“I want to live like any other Canadian and have a normal life,” he said. “I hope with your presence we can convince [Prime Minister Stephen] Harper to end this suffering, to end this story.”

In 2003 Abdelrazik traveled to Sudan to visit his sick mother. He was arrested by Sudanese authorities in collaboration with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). He was jailed and tortured as a “terrorist” suspect associated with al Qaeda.

On April 28, 2008, Abdelrazik walked into the Canadian embassy in Khartoum after his second period of detention in Sudanese jails and said he would not leave until he was booked on a plane back to Montreal where his two young daughters and a son live. Embassy officials allowed him to live there for a year under “temporary safe haven.” At the same time Ottawa blocked his return by refusing to issue travel documents until he paid for a ticket.

However, because of the sanctions imposed by Ottawa under the UN 1267 blacklist it is illegal for anyone to give Abdelrazik any money—whether it is a loan, a salary, or even a gift—under threat of a penalty up to 10 years in prison. When his situation became public a campaign was organized in Canada called Project Fly Home by people outraged at the arbitrary measures the government has taken against Abdelrazik in the name of “national security.”

Individuals supported by organizations such as the Canadian Labour Congress, Canadian Union of Postal Workers, civil rights organizations, and others defied the sanctions and raised the funds for a ticket. The campaign led to a federal court decision June 4, 2009, ordering Ottawa to bring Abdelrazik home within a month. Three weeks later he was reunited with his daughters and son in Montreal after a six-year separation.

During the course of the telethon more than 300 people phoned in to declare support for “busting the sanctions” and revoking the 1267 regulations in Canada. Those who want to help with the campaign can visit: www.people-scommission.org/en/abdelrazik.

California: Farm workers rally against racism



Militant/Betsey Stone

GREENFIELD, California—Carrying eagle flags of the United Farm Workers union, and holding signs saying, “No to Racism,” hundreds of farm workers mobilized April 27 for a meeting of the city council here to protest racist comments about immigrant workers made at a previous city council meeting and in the local press.

Workers from the state of Oaxaca in southern Mexico, many who speak the indigenous Triqui and Mixtec languages, make up one-third of the workforce in Greenfield. They have been singled out in the attacks, blamed for crime, low school performance, and littering in the town. Laura Caballero, a farm worker, urged council members to continue support of a resolution, passed in 2001, stating that immigration police should be barred from coming into the town unannounced. Those spearheading the attacks on immigrants have called for repeal of the resolution.

—BETSEY STONE

‘Militant’ makes changes in staff

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Angel Lariscy, 45, is joining the editorial staff of the *Militant*. She has been the paper’s business manager for the last two years.

Lariscy previously worked as a sew-

ing machine operator in New Jersey, where she was a member of UNITE HERE Local 169. In 2009 she was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey.

Lariscy has been a regular contributor to the paper in recent years, reporting on the use of the *Militant* in working-class struggles and campaigns to increase circulation and financial contributions to the paper.

Ben Joyce, who has been an editorial volunteer since 2008 writing on many different subjects including defense of the Cuban Five, Korea, and the U.S. health-care crisis, is leaving the staff. He will be concentrating on organizing the Socialist Workers Party branch in New York and advancing the party’s political and union activity among factory workers in the city.



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Angel Lariscy

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THE MILITANT

Fight for safety on the job

As the bosses speed up production in the drive for profits, workers’ lives and limbs are more at risk. The ‘Militant’ covers the fight for safety on the job and poses the need to use union power to defend workers’ interests.

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Rescue workers at Crandall Canyon mine in Huntington, Utah, where cave-in killed nine people in August 2007.

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UK vote reflects crisis facing capitalist rulers

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Leaders of the three main capitalist parties here, Labour Party prime minister Gordon Brown, and David Cameron and Nicholas Clegg of the Conservative Party (Tories) and Liberal Democrats respectively, marched together to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Victory in Europe May 8.

The event was organized to celebrate the allied victory in World War II—the second world imperialist slaughter. In Edinburgh, Scotland, on the same day, hundreds of troops returning from Afghanistan marched through the city center. The event was organized to salute 30 soldiers who lost their lives over the last six months in Afghanistan.

The message was clear. Britain’s “national interests”—in the face of war and the deepest economic crisis in living memory—are being defended as the three party leaderships maneuver for position following the results of the general election two days earlier. No party attained a parliamentary majority in the election, resulting in the first “hung parliament” since 1974.

The Conservative Party won the largest number of seats, securing 306, considerably short of the 326 needed for an outright majority. Labour finished with 258 Members of Parliament (MPs), down 91 from the previous election; the Liberal Democrats secured 57, down five; and other parties obtained 28.

The vote reflects the crisis of bourgeois leadership in the face of gigantic challenges for British capitalism. Britain’s rulers are weighing the prospect of the biggest budget deficit in Europe.

The UK’s ruling families in the main backed the Labour government under Anthony Blair and initially backed the Brown government’s response to the financial crisis, including its £1 trillion (US\$1.5 trillion) worth of bailout packages.

But they have, for some time, considered a Brown-led Labour government ill-equipped to tackle the consequences, unable to carry through the sort of at-

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco
European Debt Crisis Exposes World Capitalist Instability—Greek Workers Say ‘No’ to Footing the Bill. Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

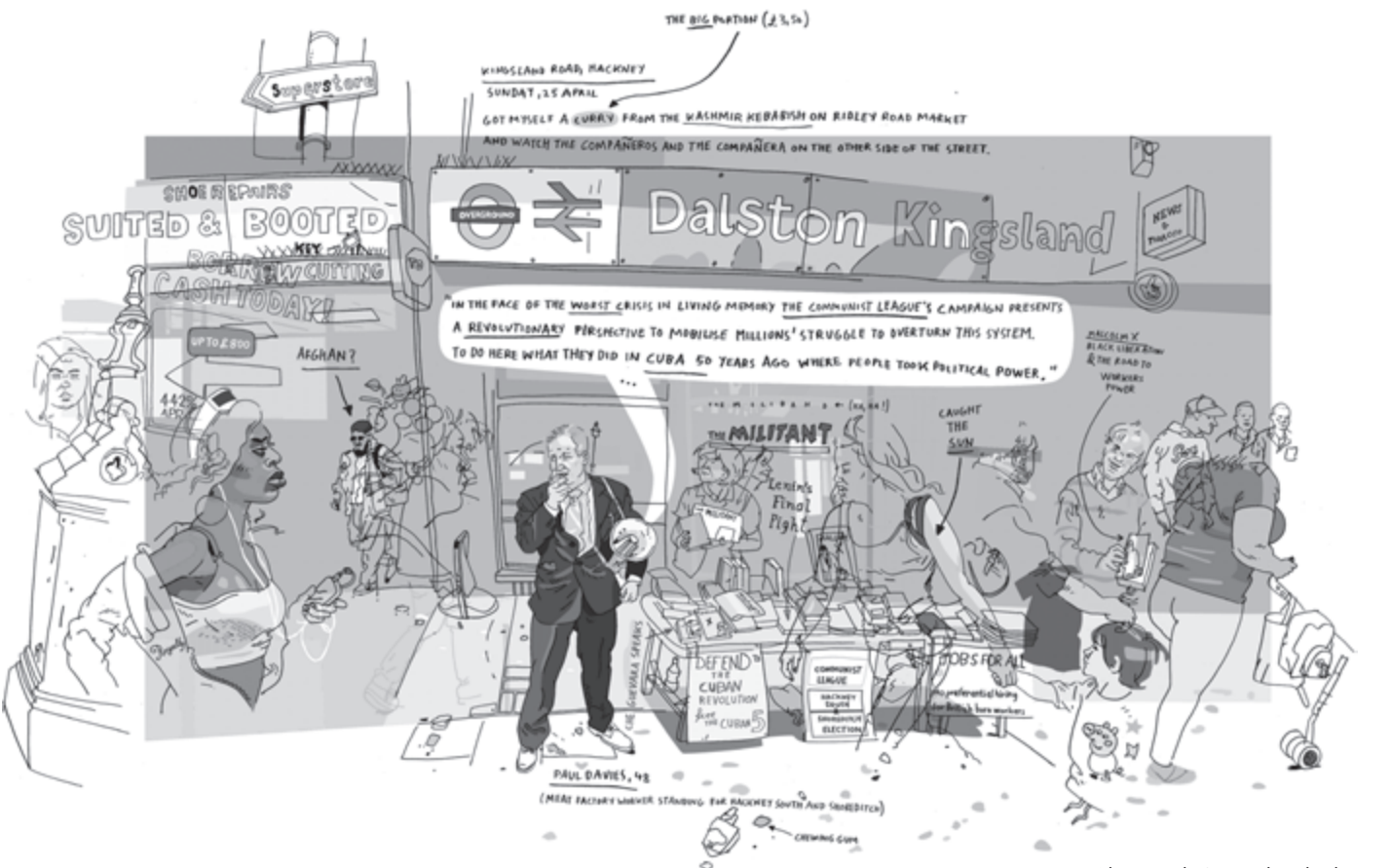
—CALENDAR—

GEORGIA

Atlanta
Malcolm X: Black Liberation & the Road to Workers Power. The Auburn Avenue Research Library, in collaboration with Atlanta Pathfinder Books, will host a community discussion and book signing on the maturation of Malcolm X as a global revolutionary. This event will feature Steve Clark, the editor of several collections of Malcolm’s speeches, published by Pathfinder Press. Thurs., May 27, 7 p.m. Auburn Avenue Research Library of American Culture and History. 101 Auburn Ave, NE. Tel.: (404) 730-4001, ext. 303.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn
Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners Avelino González and Oscar López Rivera! Picket Line. Wed., May 26, 5:30 p.m. 26 Federal Plaza. Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall subway stop. Ausp.: ProLibertad. Tel.: (718) 601-4751.



Above is part of two-page spread of drawings on UK elections by Olivier Kugler published in *Guardian* newspaper May 4. Depicted here is Communist League candidate Paul Davies campaigning on street. Entire piece can be viewed at: <http://www.olivierkugler.com/c92/index.html>

tacks on the living standards of working people that they deem necessary.

The rulers began to shift their preference to the Conservative Party under its new leader, David Cameron. In an effort to rekindle the Conservative Party’s electoral fortunes and take advantage of the rulers’ shift away from Labour, Cameron presented himself as the “heir to Blair.” Five prominent publications ended the support they’d given to the Labour Party in the 2005 election. Cameron was endorsed by the *Sun*, the *Times*, and *Financial Times* daily newspapers, and the *Economist* magazine. The daily *Guardian* endorsed the Liberal Democrats.

All three parties went into the election with the message that cuts in social welfare would be necessary. But the more radical language of the Tories, who spoke of an “age of austerity,” and the Liberal Democrats, who forecast “savage cuts,” resulted in Labour not suffering the kind of electoral wipeout that some in the media had predicted, especially in areas where the working class has already been hard hit by the economic crisis.

In Scotland, the Labour vote held up,

with the Liberal Democrats coming in second and the Tories fourth, with just one MP elected. The Labour Party also fared well in Wales and the north of England and won back a number of local councils that the party had lost over recent years.

Right-wing parties benefited from the crisis of leadership and disaffection of millions from the main parties. Pumping up the politics of resentment, the UK Independence Party won 900,000 votes—up 50 percent from 2005—and the British National Party tripled its vote from 2005, standing 339 candidates and winning 560,000 votes.

Coalition government formed

The Conservatives have, after days of haggling, finally managed to establish a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats, with Tory leader David Cameron as prime minister.

Speaking on BBC television at the outset of the negotiations, Michael Portillo, former Conservative cabinet member in Margaret Thatcher’s government, argued that such a coalition government was “very possible” as the size of the government debt and “market forces”

would decide government policy.

In an effort to secure an alternative Labour-Liberal pact, representing a so-called “progressive majority,” Prime Minister Brown announced his resignation as Labour Party leader. But the Labour-Liberal deal foundered in the face of opposition within the Labour Party and upon the recognition that it would itself not command a parliamentary majority. The capitalist media roundly condemned what many called a “coalition of the losers.”

“Whatever differences between the Tories and Liberal Democrats, the government that has emerged will lead an assault on jobs and welfare,” said Paul Davies, who stood as the Communist League candidate in Hackney South and Shoreditch. “They’ll have backing from the Labour Party leadership in their efforts to secure British imperialism’s place in the world. The capitalist party leaders speak of acting in the ‘national interest’ in an attempt to draw working people into their schemes. But what they mean by ‘national interest’ are the interests of the capitalist rulers. Workers must act to defend their own class interests.”

Australian gov’t suspends asylum requests

BY BOB AIKEN

SYDNEY, Australia—With the Australian government’s immigration detention center on Christmas Island filled to capacity, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced April 9 the suspension of further applications for asylum by refugees from Afghanistan and Tamils from Sri Lanka.

The measures were protested by 100 people outside the Villawood detention center in Sydney April 11, which countered a small rightist rally staged by the Australian Protection Party. A similar counterprotest of 200 took place in Melbourne April 10.

A march and rally of 200 in downtown Sydney April 30 protested the re-opening of the Curtin detention center. Curtin, on an air base near Derby in the far north of Western Australia, was closed in 2002 following protests by inmates against overcrowding.

Of the more than 2,000 refugees cur-

rently held on Christmas Island, which is in the Indian Ocean south of Indonesia, 80 percent are Afghans—predominantly Hazaras—or Sri Lankans, all of whom are Tamils.

With Rudd’s announcement, all future asylum seekers from Sri Lanka arriving by boat will be taken to Christmas Island but not processed for at least three months. Afghans will have to wait six months.

The Rudd government deployed 80 federal police to the island following the announcement of the asylum freeze. A week earlier, protests were staged by Iraqis who faced deportation after applications for asylum had been rejected.

Some 200 Tamils protesting on a boat held in the port of Merak in Indonesia for the last six months reportedly agreed April 18 to be taken to an Australian-funded detention center at Tanjung Pinang near Singapore. Their boat had been intercepted by the Indonesian

navy, at the Australian government’s request, last October while on its way to Christmas Island. The Tamils had been refusing to leave the ship, demanding asylum in Australia.

The Royal Australian Navy currently has seven patrol boats deployed in Operation Resolute, patrolling the waters off the northwest coast of Australia for boats of refugees, and also for Indonesian fishing boats.

Around 150 Indonesians, mainly impoverished fishermen, are currently in Australian jails facing long mandatory sentences for crewing the small boats bringing asylum seekers to Australian waters. Under so-called “people smuggling” laws, the minimum sentence for first-time offenders is a five-year jail term with a three-year non-parole period. Those convicted over a boat carrying five or more people face a maximum of 20 years imprisonment, a fine of \$220,000 or both.

Explosions in Russian coal mine kill dozens

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

May 12—Two powerful explosions within several hours of each other in a mine in Russia May 8 have killed at least 60 miners. Another 30 are unaccounted for, with dim hopes for their survival.

At the time of the blasts, some 370 miners were working in the Rapsadskaya mine, the largest underground coal mine in Russia. The second, more powerful explosion reduced above-ground buildings to rubble and shattered the main air shaft, cutting ventilation to miners still underground and to rescue workers who had been sent in to find survivors from the first blast.

One survivor told Moscow Echo radio, “They were late in pumping air into the shafts. They will only carry out corpses now.”

Company officials claimed the mine had normal methane levels when the first blast occurred and that there was an inexplicable sudden buildup of this gas. This argument was further promoted by Vadim Potapov, of the Russian Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Coal and Coal Mining. In an interview with Itar-Tass, he argued that such an “emission taking place deep underground could be

considered a mystery of nature.” However, miners reported in interviews with Russian newspapers that rising methane levels were being ignored by the company. A common practice was to cover methane sensors with wet rags or quilted work coats so production could continue if gas levels rose, reported the *New York Times*.

In 2008 government inspectors closed the mine for 15 days, citing safety violations involving conveyor belts and rail transport. This past January one miner was killed when the roof collapsed.

The Rapsadskaya mine produces 10 percent of Russia’s coking coal, which is used in steel production. It has the highest production of any coal mine in Russia and is one of the deepest, with increased danger from methane gas buildup.

Highland Gold, a UK mining company, operates the Rapsadskaya mine. The mine is part owned by Evraz Group, a Russian steelmaking company in which Russian billionaire businessman Roman Abramovich holds 36 percent of the shares. Evraz is also a major owner of two nearby mines in Siberia where explosions killed more than 140 miners in 2007.

Militant fund closes in on \$110,000 in contributions

BY ANGEL LARISCY

Supporters of the *Militant* are closing in during the final days of the eight-week international campaign to raise \$110,000. Quotas to the annual *Militant* fund, which helps sustain production of the socialist newsweekly, total more than \$111,000 and many cities report they will exceed their local goal.

The fund effort has been combined with a successful campaign to win

2,000 new and long-term readers to the paper and a similar number to the new Pathfinder book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes.

Mary Martin and John Naubert of Seattle sent in a report that \$1,565 was collected at a May 9 meeting. “Thirty participants heard a talk by Naomi Craine, of the Socialist Workers Party, who had participated in the May Day march of over 50,000 in Los Angeles,” they wrote. Craine spoke about the world capitalist crisis and the importance of struggles exemplified by the recent marches for legalization for undocumented workers and the example of the Cuban Revolution.

The meeting also heard greetings from Cheik Keita, a worker at an electronics factory in Seattle. Keita, who is originally from Africa, said, “Under capitalism you can never be comfortable. You think you have some stability and then they lay you off. Malcolm X said ‘the American dream is a nightmare.’ I believe we can work together to make a revolution.”

In Miami 19 people attended a May 8 program where the collection put Miami supporters over their \$3,000 goal, reports Bernie Senter.

“In addition to longtime readers of the paper,” Senter said, “one person came who got a subscription at the May Day action for immigrant rights. Another individual who was introduced to the paper and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road the Workers Power* the day before at a grocery store in the Black community also came.”

The fund drive ends May 12 and all contributions are due in the *Militant* office by Tuesday, May 18. It’s not too late to join the effort! Send your donation to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY, 10018. Please make out checks to the *Militant*.

Unionists strike Boeing plant in California



Militant/Bill Arth

LONG BEACH, California—Members of United Auto Workers Local 148 picket outside a Boeing plant here. Some 1,700 union members struck the plant, which manufactures the C-17 cargo plane, on May 11. They had voted by an 80 percent majority to reject the company’s contract offer, which sought concessions in pensions and medical benefits.

—BILL ARTH

Sub campaign over the top!

Continued from front page

sponse to the interest among workers and youth for a discussion about revolutionary working-class answers to the capitalist crisis. There were 1,870 copies of the book sold.

Supporters of the *Militant* across the globe reached out to workers in struggle at picket lines, in immigrant rights marches, through discussions on the job, at gatherings in defense of revolutionary Cuba, at political meetings, campaign events, and on street corners. Teams of socialist workers regularly sold to students on campuses. The results were a significant success.

“We just sent more subscriptions,” wrote Edwin Fruit from Seattle on the final day. “That brings our grand total to 153 of a quota of 145. And we raised our quota twice during the drive!” The enthusiasm of distributors in Seattle was mirrored in many other cities.

Supporters of the *Militant* from Des Moines, Iowa, traveled to Fremont, Nebraska, to close out the drive, where an anti-immigrant measure will be on the ballot this summer.

“Several people invited us into their homes,” said Maggie Trowe. “Within a few hours we had sold 13 subscriptions to the paper and one copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Several told us they would pick up the book next time we are to town. We plan to return soon!”

In Atlanta supporters of the *Militant* topped their goal with a good effort at the Sweet Auburn Spring Festival. The annual event is held along Auburn Avenue, an historic political, financial, and cultural center for Blacks in the city.

Janice Lynn wrote, “Ten copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and 10 subscriptions to the *Militant* were bought by festival-goers. Many union members were attracted to the book’s title and contents and bought it.”

“This week we sold 13 copies of the *Workers Power* book with subscriptions,” wrote Glova Scott from Washington, D.C. “A highlight of the final day’s effort was at a nurses’ informational picket line at Washington Hospital Center. Some 600 people were there, many coming from a nurses’ convention taking place in the city. We sold 5 subscriptions and 3 *Work-*

ers *Power* books at the picket line.”

From Montreal, Michel Prairie wrote about a socialist worker who “just got a job at a large United Steelworkers organized factory and sold a copy in English of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* to a young Congolese coworker. He was interested in learning more about the history of struggle by Blacks in the United States. He did not want to wait until the book is available in French in June.”

Over the coming months distributors of the *Militant* will be continuing to campaign with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. Many recent subscribers, who decided to check out the paper before buying the book, will be good candidates for follow-up political discussion.

<i>‘Militant’ fund drive</i> March 13–May 12			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Twin Cities, MN	\$7,000	\$6,910	99%
New York*	\$20,000	\$19,154	96%
Philadelphia	\$3,700	\$3,295	89%
San Francisco	\$14,000	\$11,895	85%
Houston*	\$2,800	\$2,205	79%
Des Moines, IA*	\$2,700	\$2,099	78%
Seattle*	\$8,850	\$6,570	74%
Chicago	\$9,600	\$7,115	74%
Atlanta	\$7,800	\$5,770	74%
Boston	\$3,500	\$2,575	74%
Washington, D.C.	\$6,500	\$4,610	71%
Los Angeles	\$8,700	\$5,405	62%
Miami	\$3,000	\$1,600	53%
Other		\$600	
Total U.S.	\$98,150	\$79,803	81%
Canada	\$6,650	\$4,532	68%
New Zealand	\$3,000	\$2,952	98%
Australia	\$1,500	\$1,550	103%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$750	\$1,011	135%
Edinburgh	\$300	\$235	78%
Total UK	\$1,050	\$1,246	111%
Sweden	\$500	\$355	71%
France	\$300	\$335	112%
Total	\$111,150	\$90,773	83%
International Goal: \$110,000			
* Raised goal			

<i>Campaign to sell</i> <i>‘Workers Power’ with</i> <i>‘Militant’ subscriptions</i> March 13–May 12 (Final)				
Country	Books sold	Subs sold	Subs quota	Subs %
UNITED STATES				
New York	411	339	265	128%
Los Angeles	135	152	130	117%
Houston	76	74	65	114%
Twin Cities	105	166	155	107%
Seattle**	131	153	145	106%
Washington, D.C.	139	116	110	105%
Philadelphia	89	93	90	103%
San Francisco	130	155	150	103%
Des Moines, IA	67	129	125	103%
Boston	38	67	65	103%
Atlanta	112	144	140	103%
Chicago	119	122	120	102%
Miami	67	81	80	101%
Other		2		
Total U.S.	1619	1793	1640	109%
UNITED KINGDOM				
Edinburgh	23	30	30	100%
London	100	91	90	101%
Total UK	123	121	120	101%
Canada	39	83	100	83%
New Zealand	35	66	65	102%
Australia	31	56	50	112%
Sweden	23	30	20	150%
Total	1870	2149	1995	107%
Should be		2000	2000	100%
** Raised goal twice				

U.S. capitalist owners need immigrant labor

BY SETH GALINSKY

While marching this year in New York City's May 1 demonstration for immigrant rights, a Mexican-born construction worker told me, "They need us." He was referring to the owners of the factories, mines, and big farms in the United States and their need for immigrant labor.

This knowledge is part of what gives millions of undocumented workers the

born instead of the dog-eat-dog system of capitalism.

In the 1930s Great Depression the U.S. government deported large numbers of Mexican-born workers with and without papers. However, as Washington geared up for World War II it faced a labor shortage, leading the capitalists to once again encourage large numbers of immigrants to come work in the United States.

One way was through the 1942 to 1964 *bracero* program. At its peak the U.S. government brought in more than 400,000 temporary Mexican workers a year, mostly to work in the fields, with few rights.

'Operation Wetback'

In 1954, when the U.S. economy was in a recession coming out of the Korean War, President Dwight Eisenhower named retired army general Joseph Swing to head the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Swing turned the U.S. Border Patrol into a semimilitary organization, and in the summer of 1954 launched Operation Wetback, mostly in the Southwest.

They deported 1,000 people a day; U.S.-born children were frequently deported along with their parents. By the time the program ended later in the year more than 1 million workers had been deported.

In the midst of this massive operation, Washington continued to bring in braceros to meet the capitalist class's labor needs. And just a decade later, in 1965, Washington reformed immigration laws to make it easier for workers from Latin America and Asia to emigrate to the United States.

In 1986, under President Ronald Reagan, the Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed. Some 3 million undocumented workers were granted amnesty and given green cards. That same year U.S. immigration agents deported 1.6 million workers, more than at any time since Operation Wetback.

In 1996 President William Clinton won passage of the Illegal Immigration



Militant/Jorge Lertora

Union contingent in May 1 immigrant rights march in Chicago. To counter competition for jobs fostered by capitalism, workers with and without papers need to join together in unions.

Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which expanded the powers of the immigration police. For decades prior to the Clinton law, about 95 percent of undocumented workers who were deported left without a court order. They simply signed documents "voluntarily" agreeing to their deportation.

After 1996 the immigration police more and more obtained "orders of removal" against undocumented workers they arrested. Unlike "voluntary" deportation, removal orders add possible felony charges for reentering the United States. This grew from almost 70,000 deported under removal orders in 1996 to more than 200,000 in 2003. Under the administration of Barack Obama this reached its highest level ever; 387,790 of those deported were issued removal orders, even as the number of workers crossing the border without papers declined.

Arizona echoes federal laws

The new Arizona law echoes what already exists in federal law. Faced with the possibility of mounting protests, Arizona legislators quickly modified provisions that instructed cops to detain those they "suspect of being illegal."

The amended law instructs cops to check the immigration documents of those they stop but supposedly bans doing so based on "race." This is not much different than the federal government's "Secure Communities" program whose

goal is to check the fingerprints of every prisoner in federal, state, county, and municipal jails against a Department of Homeland Security database to see if they are in the country legally.

The bosses have a dilemma: they can't live without immigrant labor, and they can't live with immigrant workers' growing self-confidence and willingness to fight back.

Even if the U.S. rulers eventually grant amnesty to millions of undocumented workers, raids and deportations will continue. And more states and cities will pass anti-immigrant laws as the capitalist class tries to increase divisions within the working class and heighten competition for jobs.

The working class must combat the condition of competition with struggles that expand the union of workers. Workers, native-born and foreign born, with papers and without, need to join together, to form unions to fight to raise wages and benefits, to oppose speedup on the job, and to demand job safety.

Unions should take the lead in opposing deportations and raids and fighting for legalization for all undocumented workers. As long as capitalism exists, it will foster competition among workers. The only way to put an end to this once and for all is for workers to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class and use that power along with state property to organize society to meet human needs.

AS I SEE IT

confidence to keep marching and demanding legalization and to resist anti-immigrant laws, like the one recently passed in Arizona.

The U.S. capitalist class depends on immigrant labor—especially from those without papers who are paid lower wages and benefits. They use immigrants to increase competition among workers for jobs, drive down wages, and boost their profits.

When the economy is expanding, the bosses encourage larger numbers of immigrants to move to the United States. This is true in all major capitalist countries. During economic crises, the bosses scapegoat immigrants for unemployment and attempt to convince native-born workers to blame the foreign-

Vale Inco

Continued from front page

the *Militant* many truckers refused to drive through the protests of hundreds of union supporters to get to the mine and the mill, and many people driving by honked their horns in solidarity.

Vale Inco officials won a court injunction ordering the protesters to disperse. Despite the order, hundreds of strikers, their families, and supporters reinforced the protests,

Strikers from the Clarabelle Mill protest reported that May 11 the police came to read out the order. The more than 100 protesters there linked arms and began chanting and singing "Solidarity Forever." The police left.

Vale Inco lawyers returned to court and convinced the judge to order the police to remove the protesters. Retired Local 6500 union member J.C. Laurin was part of the protest at the Clarabelle Mill. He told the *Militant* that on May 12, USW District 6 director Wayne Fraser and Local 6500 president John Fera visited the protest and asked the strikers to end it at that time.

"They said the Ontario Labor Relations Board had agreed to hold a hearing May 14 on the request by the USW to deal now with the case of the nine fired union activists." Further hearings on the USW complaint of bad-faith bargaining against Vale Inco are not scheduled to take place until late June. "We agreed to end the protest," said Laurin.

Laurin also reported the Ontario Ministry of Labour is investigating a May 7 accident at Vale Inco's Copper Cliff smelter, which is being operated by scabs. "A chimney stack fell and cut pressurized oxygen lines. Fortunately they were drained," said Laurin. "There haven't been any safety inspections there for 10 months. It could have been a disaster."

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 24, 1985

Opponents of racist government-cop terror and all supporters of democratic rights around the country should strongly protest the murderous attack carried out by the Philadelphia city government and city and state cops against the Black community and the predominantly Black group MOVE on May 13.

At least 11 people, including four children, were killed in a cop helicopter bombing and subsequent fire that destroyed 61 homes in a working-class neighborhood of West Philadelphia. Why? Because the mayor and cops said MOVE was a "bizarre," "radical," and "militant" organization.

While MOVE is the victim of this combined cop and government assault, the ultimate target is the rights and lives of working people and others who hold or advocate ideas that the capitalists consider beyond the pale.



May 23, 1960

The Southern student sit-in movement entered its fourth month with a victory of major proportions. A signal breakthrough was registered May 10 in Nashville, Tenn., when six leading downtown department and chain stores, including Woolworth's, Kress', and Walgreen's, opened their lunch counters to Negroes on an unsegregated basis.

Nashville's three-month sit-in campaign was fought with a high level of militancy and organizational efficiency maintained in the face of police terror, mass arrests and violence which culminated in the April 19 dynamiting of a Negro leader's home. The intensity of the struggle underscored the proportions of the victory.

The Nashville students pressed on to victory after flatly rejecting a "compromise" ninety-day "test" period in which one end of each contested lunch counter would be open to Negroes.



May 25, 1935

Fighting against low wages, discrimination and firing of union men, the bakers and drivers of the Gottfried Baking Co. plants in Manhattan and Bronx struck work at noon Monday.

All workers in the plants, salesmen, drivers, bakers, helpers and maintenance workers, including a large number of women workers organized in Baking Factory Workers Local 50 of the Baking and Confectionary Workers International Union are out.

Herman Gund, general secretary of Local 50, stated that steps are being taken to spread the strike to the Westchester plant of the company and also to tie up the Moore Baking Co. of Astoria, subsidiary of the Gottfried Co.

The demands of the union include union recognition, reinstatement of six men fired for union activity, increased wages and improved working conditions that will overcome the speed up.

Stewardship of nature falls to working class

The following is an excerpt from a statement adopted by the 2007 convention of the Socialist Workers Party. It is published in issue 14 of New International, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, under the title "The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor."

Despite efforts to persuade us otherwise by the employing class and the government and political parties of the bourgeoisie (to whom the union officialdom tethers itself), job safety, consumer protection, and environmental protection are inextricably tied together. The fight in the mines, factories, fields, and other workplaces to protect life and limb of the working classes and broader public is the germ of struggles for workers control of industry and for independent working-class political action. It is the germ of advances in labor solidarity leading the way toward a workers and farmers government and a giant leap in human solidarity.

The bosses try to convince us that we should not be in favor of rigorous regulation and enforcement of consumer and environmental protections because they decrease the "competitiveness" of "our" industries and "our" companies and cost workers jobs. The bourgeois figures and professionals who lead established consumer and environmental groups reinforce the prejudice that these are "middle-class" issues by placing much of the blame for abuses on the working class—both what we do on the job, and what we buy at the gas pump or cash register. But the bourgeois politics of NIMBY—"not in my backyard"—channels the wastes of industrial and agricultural production into the skies, streams, rivers, and soil where workers, farmers, Blacks, immigrants, and other exploited and oppressed layers of the productive population live.

Our fight for safety on the job is inseparable from social and political struggles by vanguard workers and the union movement to combat the exploiters' contamination of the food we eat, shoddy and dangerous manu-

facture of goods we need, and fouling of the earth, waters, and skies. Through organizing to impose workers control over the industries where we create wealth expropriated from us by the ruling capitalist families, we can fight not only for our unions to exercise veto power over safety, health, and the pace of work on the job. We can simultaneously demand that employers open their books, so working people can lift the veil from the "business secrets" behind which capital covers up its profiteering and its outrages against labor and nature.

"If we translate everything commonly thought of as an environmental issue into how to advance the protection of the working class, and how the working class can extend that protection to all," to recall the guideline cited earlier, "then we can hardly ever go wrong."¹ . . .

Nearly a century and a half ago, Marx wrote in *Capital*—a book he prepared as a handbook for revolutionary-minded workers—that in the future, from "the standpoint of a higher socioeconomic formation, the private property of particular individuals in the earth will appear just as absurd as the private property of one man in other men. Even an entire society, a nation, or all simultaneously existing societies taken together, are not the owners of the earth. They are simply its possessors, its beneficiaries, and have to bequeath it in an improved state to succeeding generations."²

1. Jack Barnes, *Capitalism's World Disorder*, p. 301.
2. Karl Marx, *Capital*, vol. 3 (1894), (London: Penguin, 1981), p. 911.

Oil disaster devastates environment, livelihoods

Continued from front page
abandoned a project to siphon off much of the spewing oil May 8 after part of the massive apparatus used to do this—which took two and a half weeks to build and transport—became clogged.

Spraying chemical dispersants and surface burning have had limited effect. BP has dropped about 250,000



U.S. Coast Guard/Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick Kelley

Workers in Venice, Louisiana, bundle oil containment boom May 4 as part of attempts to lessen damage from oil that continues to spew into ocean at rate of 200,000 gallons per day as result of April 20 BP oil rig explosion. Defense of workplace safety and of environment can only be led by working class.

But labor cannot "bequeath" the earth "in an improved state to succeeding generations" so long as the capitalists hold state power, own and control the means of production, and allot society's human and natural resources on the basis of a cutthroat rivalry to maximize profits. Under those conditions, labor's *conflict* with nature will increasingly, and at some point catastrophically, prevail over its capacity to symbiotically transform nature. Just as the proletariat is the only social force that can stop imperialism's inexorable march toward fascism and war, the stewardship of nature *also* falls to the working class.

It took a massive revolutionary war in the United States to overcome the bloody resistance of the slavocracy, and a post-Civil War revolutionary social movement of reconstruction to eradicate the system of "private property of one man in other men." And it will take a socialist revolution to overturn the destructive social order that dominates this country and the earth today—a social order that will be defended by the ruling capitalist families ultimately utilizing the most brutal methods at their command. It is this revolutionary working-class program and strategy that the communist movement puts into practice.

gallons of chemical materials from planes across the affected areas in the Gulf designed to disperse the oil into smaller droplets. They have suspended pumping a second dispersant into the main oil line in response to questions about the chemical's impact to the ocean floor.

The environmental consequences of these operations is unknown.

The government closed an area of coastline to commercial and recreational fishing May 2 from Florida's Pensacola Bay to the mouth of the Mississippi River. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries expanded its ban on fishing and oyster harvesting coastal areas west of the Mississippi this week.

Fishermen have been hit hard by the closure of the fishing grounds and at least 65 potential class-action lawsuits that claim economic damage from the spill have been filed.

More than 100 angry Vietnamese and Cambodian shrimpers in Plaquemines Parish turned out for a meeting with BP representatives and government officials in Buras, Louisiana, May 6, reports the *Christian Science Monitor*.

One of the lawyers running the meeting began a question and answer period by telling fishermen to refrain

from hostile questions or threats of lawsuits. A fishermen responded by shouting, "We are normal people. We are not animals. Talk to us like we are human beings!"

As the disaster continues to grow more questions are being raised about profitable shortcuts taken by BP that were approved by government agencies.

According to an AP review of records, BP never filed a plan to handle a major oil spill from an uncontrolled blowout at its Deepwater Horizon project because the government agency responsible changed its regulations two years ago, exempting it and some other projects in the central Gulf region.

BP discounted any possibility of a oil-spill disaster last year in its exploration plan for the Deepwater Horizon site.

Details about BP's disregard for the workers on the rig are also now surfacing. The *Galveston Daily News* reports that three workers forced to escape on lifeboats after the explosion were kept floating at sea for more than 10 hours. They were not allowed to call their families, and were kept by the company until the workers filled out forms and took a drug test.

From *New International* issue 14:

The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor



"The capitalist system, and the propertied families who benefit from it, will inevitably continue to ravage humanity and the planet we inhabit. It cannot be stopped short of uprooting capitalism itself."

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Evolution of Malcolm X's views on religion

The following is the 18th in a series of excerpts the Militant is running from Pathfinder Press's latest book, Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power, by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. We encourage our readers to study, discuss, and help sell the book. The following is from a 1987 speech by Barnes printed under the title "Malcolm X: Revolutionary Leader of the Working Class." Copyright © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. Sub-headings are by the Militant.

What about the evolution of Malcolm's views on religion and revolutionary politics?

First, in order to minimize misunderstanding about the political points we need to clarify, let me emphasize that I'm not calling into question Malcolm's assertions up till the final days of his life that he remained a Muslim.

We're looking at something else. What did Malcolm think about the place of religion in building a modern revolutionary movement, a revolutionary organization? Once again, there's no single answer that holds good for the entire final fifty weeks of Malcolm's life. But the position he had arrived at prior to his assassination is clear.

To begin with, when Malcolm made public his break from the Nation in March 1964, the only organizational step he announced was the establishment of a religious organization. "I am going to organize and head a new mosque in New York City, known as the Muslim Mosque, Inc.," he told the press. "This gives us a religious base, and the spiritual force necessary to rid our people of the vices that destroy the moral fiber of our community." . . .

Only a few weeks later, however, Malcolm's emphasis was already shifting. As opportunities expanded for Malcolm to collaborate with others, he began stressing that being a Muslim was not a precondition to common political action in combating the oppression of Blacks. There was no religious litmus test.

He made that point clear, for example, during a talk he presented to an April 3 gathering in Cleveland, sponsored by the local chapter of the Congress of Ra-

cial Equality (CORE), on "The Negro Revolt—What Comes Next?" The meeting was held in a Methodist Church. In closing his talk, which Malcolm titled "The Ballot or the Bullet," he said he wanted to add "a few things concerning the Muslim Mosque, Inc., which we established recently in New York City. It's true we're Muslims and our religion is Islam," Malcolm said, "but we don't mix our religion with our politics and our economics and our social and civil activities—not any more. We keep our religion in our mosque. After our religious services are over, then as Muslims we become involved in political action, economic action and social and civic action. We become involved with anybody, anywhere, any time and in any manner that's designed to eliminate the evils, the political, economic and social evils that are afflicting the people of our community."

Less than a week later, when Malcolm spoke to the Militant Labor Forum in New York City for the first of three times, he made the same point. Malcolm said he was still a Muslim, "That just happens to be my personal religion. But in the capacity in which I am functioning today, I have no intention of mixing my religion with the problems of 22 million Black people in this country."

'Keep religion in the closet'

And a few days after that, speaking to the Group on Advanced Leadership in Detroit, Malcolm said: "This afternoon, it's not our intention to talk religion. We're going to forget religion. If we bring up religion, we'll be in an argument. And the best way to keep away from arguments and differences, as I said earlier, is to put your religion at home, in the closet, keep it between you and your God." With several Christian pastors in the audience, Malcolm couldn't help himself, adding: "Because if it hasn't done anything more for you than it has, you need to forget it anyway."

Almost each speech during those initial weeks after his break from the Nation seemed to mark another step. But it was only upon Malcolm's return from his first of two trips to Africa and the Middle East that year that he set out to build a political organization open to all



Malcolm X addresses Harlem meeting to support student boycott of segregated city school system, March 15, 1964. Days earlier Malcolm announced he was leaving Nation of Islam and forming Muslim Mosque, Inc. In late June he set up Organization of Afro-American Unity, a secular, political organization open to all African Americans.

African Americans, regardless of religion or other beliefs. In late June 1964 he called together a public meeting in Harlem to establish the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU). "Up until now," Malcolm said, "these meetings have been sponsored and paid for by the Muslim Mosque, Inc. Beginning next Sunday, they will be sponsored and paid for by the Organization of Afro-American Unity."

So Malcolm's first step, in March 1964, had been to act decisively on his deeply held conviction that those—such as Elijah Muhammad—whose individual conduct flew in the face of their stated beliefs were not qualified to serve as a guide to either religion or to politics.

By June, however, Malcolm had taken another step: that religion itself cannot be a guide to effective modern political action. That religion and religious organizations need to be separated from political organization, so people can work together to build a revolutionary political organization—a form of practical activity that transcends religious beliefs or affiliations. "Because whether he was a Methodist or a Baptist or an atheist or an agnostic, [Blacks] caught the same hell," as Malcolm told a meeting at the Corn Hill Methodist Church in Rochester, New York, just five days before he was assassinated.

Meeting with a group of Mississippi youth visiting Harlem on New Year's Day 1965, Malcolm explained that he and others who had left the Nation of Islam had recognized "that there was a problem confronting our people in this country that had nothing to do with religion and went above and beyond religion. A religious organization couldn't attack that problem according to the magnitude of the problem, the complexity of the problem itself. So those in that group, after analyzing the problem, saw the need, or the necessity, of forming another group that had nothing to do with religion whatsoever. And that group is what's named and is today known as the Organization of Afro-American Unity."

This was a crucial advance. Because while Malcolm to our knowledge remained a Muslim, and thus committed to a revealed religion whose tenets are not testable, he also came to the conviction that such revelations are not, and cannot be, valid criteria for revolutionary politics. The criteria, goals, and methods of political activity must be open to objective discussion, debate, and testing in common by all those who come together in the fight, regardless

of other views, beliefs, or affiliations of any kind, and he explicitly included nonbelievers. . . .

As I noted earlier, Malcolm didn't imitate the rhetoric of a preacher when he spoke. He never tried to get anybody to accept what he said on the basis of authority. He encouraged the Mississippi youth to learn how to "see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself. Then you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself." He always tried to increase the political confidence of those he was speaking to.

"I put it to you just as plain as I know how to put it," Malcolm told the young civil rights activists from Mississippi. "There's no interpretation necessary."

There's no interpretation necessary.

That's a very important sentence. Malcolm was a straight shooter. He spoke clearly. Nobody had to "divine" what he was saying. His words could be misused. But they could not be misinterpreted due to ambiguity, let alone "irony" with its accompanying whiff of cynicism.

'An American nightmare'

Malcolm had no dreams to offer. "I don't see any American dream," he said in April 1964. "I see an American nightmare." He sought to explain the source of that waking nightmare, which he increasingly recognized as the capitalist system of oppression and exploitation here and around the world. And he began organizing to open a discussion on a way forward to fight our way out of that nightmare.

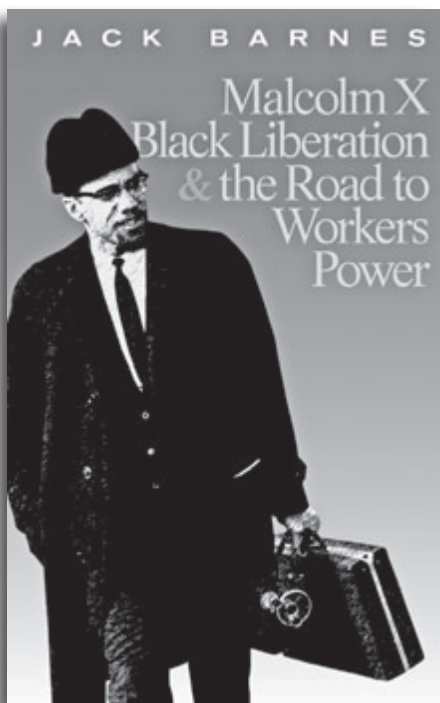
Nor did Malcolm try to develop a "liberation theology," Islamic or otherwise. Because he concluded, based on years of firsthand experience, that such an effort could only narrow, weaken, and disorient a revolutionary movement. While there is no evidence that Malcolm had become an atheist during the last year of his political activity, he had become *a-theistic* in carrying out revolutionary politics and all civil, secular activity. He kept his religion—however it may have been evolving—"in the closet," as he put it.

I think we appreciate Malcolm's contribution in this regard more fully today than we did at the time. Speaking for myself, I was convinced—and I still am—that Malcolm would sooner or later have put religion behind him. But that's a different question, of course, and one that can never be settled. What's decisive is Malcolm's evolution, in word and deed, to advancing common political activity by revolutionists.

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Mother Jones: ‘Industrial war is on in this country’

Printed below is an excerpt from Mother Jones Speaks, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for May. From the end of the Civil War until her death in 1930 at the age of 100, Mary Harris “Mother” Jones was a tireless fighter for the working class. Much of her efforts went into the great battles to organize the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). Traveling throughout the coalfields of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Alabama, and elsewhere, she joined miners facing cops and troops, hired gun thugs, judges and prosecutors, bringing to bear the power of the union. The piece below is from a speech she delivered at the 1911 convention of the UMWA. Copyright 1983 by Philip Foner. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MOTHER JONES

[P]erhaps never in the history of the mine workers was there a more important convention than this. The eyes of the world are resting today and all other days you are in session on this hall. The master class is watching your convention with keen interest. And so I say to you, be wise, be prudent in your actions. Think before you act. Don't give the master class any weapon to strike you with and laugh about. Let us have the laugh on them.



A group of West Virginia miners arrested and shackled during fight to organize workers into a union in the 1920s. Inset, Mother Jones in 1924. “Don't give the master class any weapon to strike you with,” Mother Jones told delegates to the 1911 convention of the United Mine Workers.

Now, my brothers, the last year has been a trying year for organized labor all along the line. There have been some wonderful fights on the industrial field. It has not been alone the miners, it has not been alone the steel workers.¹ For the first time, perhaps, the women in the industrial field have begun to awaken to their condition of slavery. In New York and Philadelphia the women arrayed themselves in battle, and they gave battle fearlessly. They were clubbed, they were jailed, they were insulted, but they bore it all for a principle they believed in.² Never can a complete victory be won until the woman awakens to her condition. . . .

And so it is with us in this nation. Never as long as the women are unorganized, as long as they devote their time

to women's clubs and to the ballot, and to a lot of old meow things that don't concern us at all and have no bearing on the industrial battle, can we succeed, and the men will have to make the battle alone. But the century is here when the woman is going to take a mighty hand in these battles, and then we will fight it out and fight it to a finish. Put that down, Mr. Reporter!

Now, I want to call your attention to some things. The industrial war is on in this country. Why? Because modern machinery plays a greater part in the production of wealth in this nation than it does in any other nation of the world. The class that owns the machine owns the government, it owns the governors, it owns the courts and it owns the public officials all along the line. There may be an exception, but on the whole it is true. . . .

If there is an organization in this land or in any other land the master classes

are afraid of, if there is an organization they want to split in two, it is the United Mine Workers of America.³ They are putting up every sort of game to divide our forces, but they are going to get left, my friends. We may have a little house-cleaning, we may have a little jawing and chewing the rag; but when the time comes we will line up and give the master class what they have been looking for. In Colorado you have sixteen men in jail. A distinguished judge, owned body and soul and brains—and he never had any too much brains—by the corporations, has put sixteen of our men in jail. Let me serve notice on the judges of this country that the day is not far distant when we will put every capitalist judge in jail and make a man out of him. That day is coming and it is not far away. Put that down, Mr. Reporter, so the judges will know it!

They take our boys and for no cause on earth put them in jail. In Greensburg they hauled them in all over the county, and gave them nothing to eat until the miners came along, put up their treasury, bailed them out and they went back again to help their brother strikers.⁴ They are trying to create a riot. Fellows will go out and say, “Why, the miners are very peaceful.” I wonder what those fellows think? We will be peaceful if they give us what belongs to us, but we will not be very peaceful while they are skinning us. We are at war, and there is no war so fierce as an industrial battle. No war on the battlefield of the world's history can equal an industrial battle.

4. The strike in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania is described by Mother Jones in her *Autobiography* (pp. 145–47). There she also tells of the role played by the miners' wives, under her leadership, who carried on the battle against the scabs after their husbands had been imprisoned. The women also went to jail, and at Mother Jones's advice, took their babies with them, and, at her direction, sang “the whole night long.” They caused so much noise that the townspeople could not sleep. “Finally after five days in which every one in town had been kept awake, the judge ordered their release.” (*Ibid.*, p. 147.) The same tactic was used by I.W.W. free-speech fighters in their battle for the right to speak on the street corners.

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Oppose war at home and abroad

The U.S. government has seized on the failed terrorist bombing in New York City May 1 to further erode the rights of working people at home and advance its wars abroad. The capitalist rulers are compelled to press ever deeper along these two fronts by the deepening worldwide crisis of their system.

Bills now before the Senate and House of Representatives propose allowing the government to revoke citizenship of those it accuses of being affiliated with “terrorists.” This would make it easier to place them before military tribunals. Capitalist politicians are harping about the “ease” with which foreign nationals like Faisal Shahzad, who is accused of manufacturing and placing the Times Square bomb, obtain U.S. citizenship through marriage.

The attempted bombing is being used to justify more U.S. military involvement in Pakistan and to press its ally in Islamabad to expand its own war against Taliban forces in the country. Washington is aiming to put more special forces on the ground there, at the same time U.S. drone missile strikes kill civilians—“collateral damage”—along with Taliban combatants in the least developed areas of the country’s northwest.

The U.S. rulers have and will continue to use events like the attempted bombing in Times

Square—actions that have nothing to do with the fight against capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression—to garner support for further restrictions on the rights of working people in preparation for class battles to come. The same methods promoted in the fight against “terrorism” will be increasingly wielded against union and working-class militants resisting the consequences of the deepening economic crisis and the accompanying multifaceted assaults on conditions of life and work.

The statement released by Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor Martín Koppel on Sept. 11, 2001—the day of the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon—rings true today. In part it reads: “By its systematic superexploitation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by its never-ending insults to their national and cultural dignity; by its ceaseless, murderous violence in countless forms—U.S. imperialism is turning North America into a death trap for working people and all who live here.”

Working people “must oppose U.S. military intervention anywhere in the world. We must oppose efforts by Washington to escalate an assault on the political rights of working people and the organizations of our class and its oppressed and exploited allies.”

Workers bear brunt of Europe crisis

Continued from front page

will have a debt to gross domestic product ratio of 149 percent. . . . That is 25 percent higher than today and even more cosmically unsustainable,” said the *Financial Times*.

Greek trade union officials pledged to continue demonstrations and strikes against these attacks, and warned of “a social explosion,” in the words of Ilias Iliopoulos, secretary general of the public workers union ADEDY. Despite this bluster, union officials are primarily using the protest actions to let workers blow off steam.

Yannis Panagopoulos, president of the GSEE union, the largest in the private sector, has said he objects to the cuts because they are “unfair” and do not fall “evenly” on both workers and employers. Both unions back the governing Panhellenic Socialist Movement.

The IMF loan to Greece—\$40 billion—is the largest it has ever made to any country and its first to a country in the euro zone. In return the IMF imposed onerous conditions on Greece: a “significant” cut in military spending, reduction of entry-level wages for workers, reduction of tariffs on trade in pharmaceuticals, engineering, transporta-

tion, and other businesses, and publication on the Internet of the losses of state-owned Greek companies. The purpose of the latter is to pressure the government to privatize those enterprises.

The decision of German chancellor Angela Merkel, of the Christian Democrats, to loan Greece nearly \$30 billion—the highest amount after the IMF—produced a sharp debate in Germany. The rival Social Democratic Party called for members of parliament to abstain on the proposal.

One result of that decision was a 10 percent drop in votes for the Christian Democrats in a regional election May 9 in the industrial North Rhine-Westphalia region. That may cost Merkel her majority in the upper house of parliament.

In a May 10 *Financial Times* column titled “America has good reason to worry about Greece,” Clive Crook wrote, “Suppose Greece defaults. That will spread losses across the European banking system. Pressure to default could mount on other European countries, starting with Portugal and Spain . . . Just how badly U.S. banks and non-banks are exposed to all these risks . . . may be unclear until it happens.”

LETTERS

Offshore drilling in Arctic

I have been watching in horror as one of the worst oil spills in American history continues unabated. In light of the crisis, President Obama recently called for a timeout on new offshore drilling, but didn’t specifically include the Arctic Ocean. Exploratory drilling is slated to begin there in less than 60 days.

If the oil industry can’t even stop a spill in the Gulf of Mexico,

surrounded by all of its infrastructure and technology, how will they ever stop one at the top of the world?

*Jennifer Bilek
Woodside, New York*

Tesoro refinery deaths

The otherwise excellent editorial in the May 17 *Militant*, “Immigrant rights strengthen labor,” erred in reporting the number of refinery workers killed by Tesoro

in the Anacortes, Washington, refinery on April 2. A total of seven eventually died, including one foreman.

*Mitchel Rosenberg
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Prisoner requests sub

I’ve been informed by another worthy activist prisoner that you have a great newsletter. I would like to request a subscription.

*A prisoner
Pennsylvania*

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Times Square

Continued from front page

ing cited by politicians and the press to justify stricter “security” procedures and monitoring of international travelers. The FBI tracked him down based on information he provided during an airport screening on his return from Pakistan months earlier. He was selected for special scrutiny as part of procedures covering all travelers from 14 countries for several months following the failed December 25 bombing of a Northwest Airlines flight to Detroit.

Under a “public safety exception” enacted in 1984, interrogators questioned Shahzad for hours before informing him of his Miranda rights: the right to remain silent and be represented by a lawyer.

Holder said the administration would seek to further weaken restrictions on using evidence obtained from questioning suspects without reading them their Miranda rights. “We want to work with Congress to come up with a way in which we make our public safety exception more flexible and . . . consistent with the threat that we face,” he stated.

A bill sponsored by senators Joseph Lieberman and Scott Brown has received support among a layer of both Democratic and Republican politicians in Congress. The Terrorist Expatriation Act would allow the government to revoke the citizenship of anyone suspected of being affiliated with “terrorists.” Among other things, it would facilitate trying citizens by military tribunal.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke favorably about the proposal and said the administration would take a “hard look” at it. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said she supported the “spirit” of the bill.

Shahzad reportedly told interrogators he followed the writings of Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S.-born cleric of Yemeni descent with alleged ties to al-Qaeda. Al-Awlaki is said to have communicated with Maj. Nidal Hasan before Hasan’s shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, killing 13 soldiers last November. Al-Awlaki is also reportedly the first U.S. citizen known to be targeted for assassination by executive order.

“If the president can authorize the killing of a United States citizen because he is fighting for a foreign terrorist organization, we can also have a law that allows the U.S. government to revoke Awlaki’s citizenship and that of other American citizens who have cast their lot with terrorist organizations,” Lieberman said in defense of the Terrorist Expatriation Act.

“Thanks Faisal!” blared the front page headline of the *New York Post* reporting New York mayor Michael Bloomberg’s announcement May 6 that the city was reversing its decision to cut nearly 900 police jobs as part of its budget cuts.

Washington presses war in Pakistan

Over the past several months, military and intelligence cooperation between Washington and Islamabad has deepened and the Pakistani military has opened new offensives against the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and allied groups in the country’s tribal areas. Holder praised Islamabad’s cooperation in the Shahzad investigation, but added Washington would take “appropriate steps” in Pakistan wherever the Pakistani government fell short.

Washington has used the opportunity to continue pressing the Pakistani government to expand its war against Taliban factions and other armed Islamist groups based in Pakistan’s tribal agency of North Waziristan where Washington has carried out 33 known aerial drone strikes so far in 2010. Hundreds have been killed in these strikes over the last year.

“We want more. We expect more,” Secretary of State Clinton said on ABC’s “This Week” May 9. “We’ve made it very clear that if, heaven forbid, an attack like this that we can trace back to Pakistan were to have been successful, there would be very severe consequences.”

Some U.S. officials are seizing on the incident to press for increasing U.S. special forces operating in Pakistan, whose presence is unpopular there. Over the last year, Washington has been increasing the number of U.S. elite soldiers in the country, now disclosed to be more than 200. Actual figures are classified.

“There is a growing sense that there will need to be more of a boots on the ground strategy,” one official told the *New York Times*.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.